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Judiciary Committee
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Bill # HB05364

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE FILING OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS
WHEN A MUNICIPALITY IS THE EMPLOYER.**

Good Afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Ann Marie Mones, and I am the Risk Manager for the City of Stamford. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to testify in favor of Proposed HB05364 An Act concerning the filing of workers' compensation claims when a municipality is the employer.

The proposed bill would establish a definitive person, the Town Clerk for the municipality, to which a Worker's Compensation Form 30C or Form 30D must be delivered to as a representative of the employer. This would streamline the process and reduce the possibility of documents not being responded to within a timely fashion; which is the 28 days allotted by the Workers' Compensation Commission.

Currently there is case law which shows that a Form 30C or Form 30D can be sent to basically anyone in a municipality and become a legal notice of claim. When a Form 30C or Form 30D is received by an employer, the employer has the opportunity to deny the claim within 28 days or you must assume responsibility for the claim. This has made a negative financial impact on the City of Stamford and other municipalities in Connecticut. An example being: a Form 30C was delivered to a particular department in Stamford. The form was allegedly placed in a file in that department, and never forwarded to the Town Clerk, Risk Management, or the third party administrator for our workers' compensation claims. The claim was not denied in a timely fashion, and though it was litigated, we still ended up paying on the claim. This particular claim will continue to cost the City of Stamford money for years to come. It is not the only claim to have

been sent to the wrong person, resulting in the City being precluded from denying the claim, if it was not a legitimate claim.

At this time, for persons employed by the State of Connecticut, in addition to serving upon the State of Connecticut Commissioner for Workers' Compensation, employees must serve their employer by serving the notices upon the Commissioner of Administrative Services. By doing so, there is one central location the notices are served and become legal documents. Instructions for doing so appear on the Forms 30C and 30D. I support requiring all municipal employees to serve notices of claims such as the 30C and 30D not only upon the Commissioner for Workers' Compensation, but also upon the Town Clerk for the municipality in which they are employed. This requirement should be added to the instructions for completing these forms, and also should be added to the instructions on to the Form 30C and 30D.

In summary, I do support Proposed H.B. No. 05364 An Act Concerning the Filing of Workers' Compensation Claims When a Municipality is the Employer. I believe the effect will reduce an unnecessary burden on municipalities and taxpayers, when and if the particular claims for workers' compensation benefits should have been denied, and allow the municipality the opportunity to investigate and defend when appropriate.